Fall 2015

Alumni Magazine Fall 2015

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Introducing Hemenway Laboratories
MEETING THE NEEDS OF THE COMMONWEALTH

Dear Alumni and Friends of FSU,

Since our founding in 1839 as the nation’s first public teachers’ college, Framingham State has continually evolved over time to meet the needs of the Commonwealth. Today, the state’s reliance on our ability to adapt in order to provide the highly educated workforce of tomorrow has never been greater. In its most recent annual report, “Degrees of Urgency,” the Department of Higher Education projects that without intervention, the Public Higher Education System will fall short of meeting the state’s need for new associate’s and bachelor’s degrees by a minimum of 55,000 to 65,000. The shortfall is especially glaring in the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) subjects, and could have serious economic consequences for Massachusetts.

The good news is that FSU has already begun taking steps to help fill the void. From 2010 to 2014, enrollment in our STEM programs rose 38 percent. And, as you will read about in this issue of Framingham State Magazine, this fall we opened Hemenway Laboratories, a state-of-the-art addition to Hemenway Hall, featuring 16 new science labs. This badly needed project is going to transform our science and math programs and provide our students and faculty with access to the type of laboratories required for exciting scientific inquiry and research. The expansion also allows us to explore new programs we previously didn’t have the space to house, such as our recently launched master’s degree in Biotechnology. As with all of our construction in recent years, Hemenway Laboratories was designed with the environment in mind and meets the high standards for LEED (Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design) Certification as set by the U.S. Green Building Council.

I’m proud to say that we’ve been able to accomplish this while also continuing our commitment to excellence across all of our academic offerings. I hope you have a chance to visit Framingham State in the near future and take a tour of this beautiful new addition to our campus.

Sincerely,

F. Javier Cevallos, PhD
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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

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Introducing Hemenway Laboratories

“This new building shows that Framingham State is serious about research. I think that, plus the individual attention you get from Science faculty, make majoring in Science at Framingham State an unbeatable combination.”

— CHEMISTRY MAJOR | BAILEY MCLERNON ’16

FRAMINGHAM STATE UNVEILS HEMENWAY LABORATORIES

by Maura Kent Scully
The sciences have a new home at Framingham State University: a gleaming brick, steel and glass structure connected to the Hemenway Annex. Called Hemenway Laboratories, the five-story structure adds 16 sparkling new labs for biology, chemistry and food science, complete with the latest equipment and safety features.

The new labs, which opened with the start of classes in September, “will give students a more realistic experience of science,” says Dean of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Margaret Carroll. “They will get hands-on opportunities with techniques and equipment, which will better prepare them for the workplace.” The additional space, she notes, “will allow us to run all the classes we need, plus give upper-division students room to run labs that take multiple days.” In the past, shared laboratories made such experiments impractical.

Room to Grow

The new labs are a boon for FSU’s burgeoning STEM programs, which have grown by 58 percent from 2010 to 2014. “Increasing STEM majors was part of the University’s strategic plan to meet statewide workforce needs,” says Carroll. The Hemenway Laboratories also pave the way for the University to launch a new professional master’s degree in Biotechnology—this, in response to demand from MetroWest business leaders.

“For this new master’s degree, regular classroom sessions will be held during the academic year; labs will be held in the summer months, allowing us to maximize use of the Hemenway Laboratories,” says Carroll.

The labs are not only functional, but also beautiful. Each is full of light, with a wall of windows that looks out onto the woods around Farm Pond. Outside the labs, the hallways open to an enclosed atrium also flooded with natural light.

“The views are incredible,” says Professor Aline Davis, chair of the Department of Biology, as she gives visitors a tour.

Out of Sight

But perhaps some of the building’s most amazing features are those you can’t see. Hidden beneath the dropped ceilings are miles and miles of piping—for ventilation, auxiliary gases and fiber-optic data, to name a few. The building’s five floors sit on top of a 16-foot basement, which houses all of the mechanical systems.

The prep labs have hoods that vent to the outside; the organic chemistry labs filter and recirculate the air just like hospital operating rooms—which is a big energy saver; and the biology labs have special downdraft tables. All the labs are designed to give instructors a clear line of sight across the room, allowing them to quickly spot any potential mishaps. The fire suppression systems throughout the building are the latest and greatest.

“There are lots of safety features built right in,” explains Warren Fairbanks, Associate Vice President of Facilities and Capital Planning. The Hemenway Laboratories building, he notes, is LEED Silver certified. LEED, which stands for Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design, is a designation granted by the U.S. Green Building Council, a nonprofit organization promoting sustainable building practices.

“There’s not much difference between Hemenway Laboratories and what you see down the street at Genzyme,” says Fairbanks. The building is so amazing, in fact, that it will be featured at a conference in Boston in October: The College and University Science Facilities 2015 Conference will offer attendees the opportunity to tour Hemenway Laboratories.
“Having all of the labs updated is great. It’s nice to have supplies stored close by.”
—Sophomore Douglas Perkins ’18

“Students will be able to use hoods on a more regular basis and learn what it’s like to do chemistry in a modern laboratory.”
—Professor Sarah Pilkenton

“We won’t be limited any longer by what we can accomplish in the labs.”
—Biology Major Valerie Leger ’17

Raising the Bar
Back on campus, “all faculty and students are really excited about having a lab experience in the new building,” says Fairbanks.

This includes Professor Sarah Pilkenton, chair of the Department of Chemistry and Food Science. “This new building will help us teach a lot. Students will be able to use hoods on a more regular basis and learn what it’s like to do chemistry in a modern laboratory. We can now do more interesting labs with the latest safety methodology. The new labs also have more bench space, which enables students to work together.”

In the first-year chemistry lab, for example, workstations are octagonally shaped, allowing students to collaborate more easily. Lab benches also have a seating area at one end where students can sit and take notes during a pre-lab lecture, something not possible in the previously cramped science labs. Each lab has a fully integrated audiovisual system. “The instructor’s bench has a projector installed in the ceiling so we can demonstrate proper technique and ensure that everyone can see,” adds Pilkenton.

Competitive Edge
Sophomore Douglas Perkins is excited about Hemenway Laboratories not just because he’s a Chemistry major, but also because he works in the Chemistry Department. “I help prepare labs for Professor [Lisa] Savini and Professor [Kathi] Browne,” he says. “Having all of the labs updated is great. It’s nice to have supplies stored close by in a way that’s logical, rather than just where there is space. It makes things much easier.”

Valerie Leger, a junior Biology major, looks forward to more variety this year’s labs. “We won’t be limited any longer by what we can accomplish in the labs. We can do more modern techniques with more up-to-date equipment and new instrumentation, which will give us more accurate data.”

Leger is also excited about the building’s “soft” spaces: the atrium is filled with tables and sofas; there’s also a lounge area at the end of every floor for either quiet study or group collaboration. “The new study spaces are great,” says Leger. “It’s helpful to have an additional place to meet for group projects—the group spaces in the library are usually booked.”

Senior Bailey McLernon, a Chemistry major, predicts that the new building will draw new STEM students. “This new lab building shows that Framingham State is serious about research,” she says. “Seniors completing capstone projects, for example, will be able to work in faculty labs instead of trying to conduct their research in and around student labs.”

All in all, “this new building shows that Framingham State is serious about research,” concludes McLernon. “I think that, plus the individual attention you get from Science faculty, that makes majoring in Science at Framingham State an unbeatable combination.”

The move of laboratory sciences to Hemenway Laboratories will also allow for renovation of existing laboratories in Hemenway Hall and Hemenway Annex, which is expected to be completed by December 2016. Some labs will become general-purpose classrooms; others will be transformed into specialty labs, such as a simulation lab for nursing and geographic information systems. Importantly, through this second-stage renovation, all Science faculty members will gain dedicated lab space for their own research. This is beneficial not only for individual faculty, according to Professor Davis, but also for students.

“Students interested in doing research will finally have some space,” she says. “Seniors completing capstone projects, for example, will be able to work in faculty labs instead of trying to conduct their research in and around student labs.”

All in all, “this new building shows that Framingham State is serious about research,” concludes McLernon. “I think that, plus the individual attention you get from Science faculty, that makes majoring in Science at Framingham State an unbeatable combination.”

2016 Laboratory Renovation
Renovation of existing laboratories in Hemenway Hall and Hemenway Annex, which is expected to be completed by December 2016.
Making the Most of Her First Year

HANNAH ROGERS ’18 DIVES INTO COLLEGE LIFE

Hannah Rogers ’18 is a sophomore Chemistry major with a concentration in Biochemistry and a minor in Biology. She is a member of the Aspiring Health Professionals student club at FSU. Last summer, she volunteered at a camp for kids with muscular dystrophy.

Q: WHY DID YOU CHOOSE FSU, AND WHAT HAVE YOU ENJOYED MOST ABOUT THE EXPERIENCE?
A: I came from a small high school, and I liked the idea of going to a relatively small college. I was definitely attracted to the small class sizes because it makes everything more personal. I really enjoyed my first year. I had some of the nicest professors who are very willing to help their students. So long as you put in the hard work, they will help you succeed. Making connections and meeting a ton of new people was the highlight of my first year. Being able to talk to an adviser about my career goals was a plus. They don’t question you or think you’re crazy. They genuinely want to help you get there.

Q: WHAT ACTIVITIES HAVE YOU ENGAGED IN OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM AT FSU?
A: Framingham State University has a lot of opportunities to get involved with different clubs and groups. I joined the Cross Country team, though I wasn’t able to run for part of the season because I was recovering from an injury. But it was still great getting to meet everyone. The team has a lot of different age groups. I also joined the Aspiring Health Professionals (AHP) student club, which was great. We bring different speakers to campus, which gives us an opportunity to hear about the different career options available in the field. We are also working on raising money to get everyone in the club first-aid and CPR certified.

Q: HOW DO YOU GET INVOLVED WITH THE MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY ASSOCIATION LAST SUMMER?
A: The AHP club hosted a speaker from the Muscular Dystrophy Association who talked about a camp they put on each year for a week in Maine. It’s free of charge for the kids and their families, and each camper is paired with a counselor. I applied to be a counselor and was accepted following a long application process. It was a great experience learning how to take care of kids with muscular dystrophy and helping them to do the things they aren’t normally able to do, like swim and play soccer. I’d never been to Maine, so it was an amazing opportunity to go up there and work with the kids.

Q: WHAT ARE YOUR HOPES AND PLANS FOR THE FUTURE?
A: I originally declared as a Nutrition major at Framingham State, but last year I suffered an injury and worked very closely with an orthopedic surgeon to rehab and recover. During that time, I fell in love with everything he was doing, and I realized that I really want to go to medical school. So I changed my major to Chemistry, with a concentration in Biochemistry and a minor in Biology. That allows me to take all the prerequisite courses I need for medical school, while also enabling me to take some really interesting courses like genetics. No matter what I’m doing, I really like the idea of helping people reach their goals. I suffered through a serious sports injury and was helped in my recovery, and that is what I want to do for other people.

Q: WHAT DO YOU ENJOY MOST ABOUT TEACHING AT FRAMINGHAM STATE?
A: One thing I really enjoy is that I work in a small department with small class sizes. The bond you are able to develop with the students is something I could never have imagined before I came to Framingham State. At large universities, students often get lost in huge classes; in order to be known by a professor, they have to be at the top of their class. Here, we know all of our students. This is my fourth year as a professor at FSU, so for the first time I can see the development of my students over their full four years in college—and to me, that’s priceless. I really enjoy seeing our students excited to graduate and able to find work in the food industry. Most of our students have jobs lined up because there is a big demand for food science professionals.

Q: HOW DO YOU GET INTO YOUR AREA OF RESEARCH STUDYING NATURAL COMPOUNDS?
A: In Greece, where I am from, we have traditional medicine, which is based in the use of certain herbs to cure certain conditions. So, if you have a fever, you take one herb; for a rash, you take another. I’ve always been fascinated with the science behind how these herbs are working. All of us know drugs can cure diseases; but through ancient history, we know natural products can do that as well. That’s how I ended up studying how natural compounds can prevent diseases. When I was completing my PhD, I was looking at many different potential applications—type 2 diabetes, urolithiasis prevention, hypertension treatment, and antimicrobial ingredient development.

Q: WHAT LED YOU TO FOCUS MORE EXCLUSIVELY ON TYPE 2 DIABETES PREVENTION?
A: After coming to Framingham State, I felt I had to define myself in a specific field and among the different areas I had researched. I decided to focus on type 2 diabetes, because it’s a huge problem in our society. The research I’m doing with students at FSU is focused on helping the 90 million people in this country who are pre-diabetic. I’m fascinated with prevention for the people who are borderline. The hope down the road is that we will be able to develop a health supplement that people who are pre-diabetic can take to slow or prevent the progression to diabetes.

Dynamic Research

INTERVIEW WITH DR. EMMANOUIL APOSTOLIDIS

Dr. Emmanouil Apostolidis has been a faculty member in the Chemistry and Food Science Department at Framingham State University since 2011. He earned his bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral degrees from the University of Massachusetts Amherst, and teaches courses in Food Science and Biochemistry. Last spring, Dr. Apostolidis was awarded the Distinguished Faculty of the Year Award for Excellence in Scholarship/Creative Work. His scholarly work examines the potential health benefits of naturally occurring compounds found in fruits, spices, herbs and teas. This research has led to the identification of chemicals that inhibit the enzymes that break down starches, and has potential application in the treatment of type 2 diabetes.

Q: WHAT DID YOU CHOOSE FROM ASSISTING IN THIS TYPE OF RESEARCH, AND WHAT WAS YOUR REACTION TO WINNING THE DISTINGUISHED FACULTY OF THE YEAR AWARD FOR SCHOLARSHIP?
A: What all students gain is learning how to operate in any lab environment. Nearly all of them are going to be working in a lab producing food products. For students who publish papers and go to national conferences to discuss their research, it is a great addition to their résumé. It was a tremendous honor winning the Distinguished Faculty of the Year Award for Scholarship. When I found out, I felt a huge responsibility and motivation to continue to work even harder to develop my scholarship activity. When you receive such an award at an early stage of your career, it raises the bar.
Thousands convened on the Framingham Village Green on Sunday, May 18th, to witness members of the largest graduating class in Framingham State history receive their diplomas.

Boston Marathon bombing survivor Heather Abbott gave the undergraduate commencement address, describing her experience since losing a leg as a result of injuries sustained in the terrorist attack. She told the graduates that when faced with adversity, it’s important to accept what you can’t change and rise above it. Abbott said the support she has received from people around the country since she was injured motivated her to focus on helping others. She became a certified peer counselor and launched the Heather Abbott Foundation to raise money to provide prosthetic devices to other people who have lost limbs.

“Do what you can for others,” said Abbott, who received an honorary degree in Humane Letters from FSU. “As college graduates, you have an advantage. Be a catalyst for good.”

Earlier in the day, the University held its graduate ceremony. Richard O. Wightman, Jr., a member of Framingham State’s Class of 1974 and the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs, gave the graduate commencement address. He told the graduates that there are four traits that will help them succeed in life—Resiliency, Adaptability, Motivation and Sincerity—or RAMS.

“You need to have the ability to navigate change,” said Wightman, who also was honored with an honorary degree in Humane Letters. “You will see more change in your career and personal life than you could ever imagine today.”

The University presented its Citizen Laureate Award to State Representative Carolyn Dykema during the graduate ceremony for her support of student veterans and higher education at the Massachusetts State House.

“This is a great honor,” said Dykema. “Framingham State is truly one of our treasures, not just in the MetroWest, but also in the entire Commonwealth.”

FSU celebrates spring commencement

Heather Abbott, Heather Abbott Foundation

450 Master’s degrees conferred

916 Bachelor’s degrees conferred

54 Summa cum laude

73 Magna cum laude

196 Cum laude
29 WHO SHINE CEREMONY

Stephanie Billingsley Honored by Gov. Charlie Baker

Framingham State University Psychology major Stephanie Billingsley ’15 was honored by Governor Charlie Baker and other state officials earlier this month during the 29 Who Shine Ceremony at the Massachusetts State House.

“I want to congratulate all 29 of these outstanding Class of 2015 graduates for the recognition they have received and thank them for their substantial contributions to their local communities,” said Governor Baker. “Each of the 29 Who Shine honorees, in addition to being an accomplished student, is civically engaged in ways that improve the quality of life in Massachusetts.”

Billingsley finished her degree at Framingham State with a perfect 4.0 grade point average and was honored as the valedictorian of the Class of 2015 at commencement.

“During her time at FSU, Stephanie has excelled academically and demonstrated a deep commitment to community service and civic engagement,” said Framingham State President F. Javier Cevallos. “She is truly deserving of this recognition from Framingham State and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.”

Billingsley plans to further her education next year by pursuing a doctoral degree, potentially in Environmental or Conservation Psychology, which will combine her passion for psychology and conservation. Ultimately, she hopes to pursue a career that blends research, community service and teaching.

West Hall Construction

FRAMINGHAM STATE BREAKS GROUND ON NEW RESIDENCE HALL

Officials gathered at Framingham State in April to break ground on West Hall, a new state-of-the-art residence hall being built off Maynard Road.

“I know it doesn’t look like much now, but it’s going to be a beautiful building featuring semi-suites of joined double and single rooms, a game room, common spaces and lounges with kitchenettes,” President F. Javier Cevallos said at the ceremony, which overlooked the construction site.

The 316-bed residence hall will offset beds being lost as O’Connor Hall is converted into badly needed faculty office space. There will also be a modest gain in overall beds on campus to keep up with projected enrollment growth.

The project is being funded through the Massachusetts State College Building Authority (MSCBA). It was designed by ARC/Architectural Resources Cambridge, and the general contractor is Consigli Construction.

Hundreds of families converged on the Framingham State campus in April for the inaugural outdoor science festival, Science on State Street.

Interactive presentations by students, faculty and local businesses included robotic and engineering demonstrations, a passport tour of the solar system, and hands-on experiences in biology, chemistry, physics and food science.

The event, an extension of the Cambridge Science Festival, included a special outdoor exhibit, From Earth to the Universe, which featured breathtaking astronomical images from the Hubble and Chandra Space Telescopes. The exhibit was on loan to the University from the Chandra X-ray Observatory at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics in Cambridge.

“We were really pleased with the turnout, given it was the first year of the event,” said Dr. Irene Porro, director of the Christa Corrigan McAuliffe Center at Framingham State.

Science on State Street

FSU HOSTS COMMUNITY SCIENCE FESTIVAL: SCIENCE ON STATE STREET

A series of documentaries on sexual assault created for FSU students under the direction of Professor Robert Johnson is earning national attention, including a nomination for a 2015 Peabody Award.

The documentaries were created as part of the FACT5 initiative between Framingham State and four other institutions across the country— California State University, Northern Illinois University, Rowan University and Western State Colorado University. Each school received $10,000 from the Wyncote Foundation in Philadelphia to create documentary films about the topic of sexual assault. A team of nine students in Johnson’s Documentary Filmmaking course created the films during the 2012–13 academic year. They were Daniel Albinger, Briana Christiansen, Kristian Coscarelli, Sarah Giansanti, Johanna Harris, Dylan Thomas, Siobhan McLarnon, Nicholas McWilliam and William Oxtoby.

According to Johnson, the documentaries have been shown at more than 40 institutions. The group ultimately did not win a Peabody Award, but the nomination speaks to the quality of the films and relevance of the topic.

“When we began investigating the subject of sexual assault, I was astonished at how numerous unreported cases were,” said Johannah Harris ’15. “It made me feel it was my responsibility to help bring this topic to light.”

Anyone interested in viewing the documentaries can visit WWW.PACT5.ORG.

West Hall Construction

“I KNOW IT DOESN’T LOOK LIKE MUCH NOW, BUT IT’S GOING TO BE A BEAUTIFUL BUILDING FEATURING SEMI-SUITES OF JOINED DOUBLE AND SINGLE ROOMS, A GAME ROOM, COMMON SPACES AND LOUNGES WITH KITCHENETTES.”
Hundreds gathered in the Dwight Hall Performing Arts Center on May 1st to witness the inauguration of F. Javier Cevallos as the 16th president of Framingham State University.

“It is with the utmost sense of responsibility that I accept the honor you have given me,” President Cevallos said during his inaugural address. “Framingham State University is a great institution, with a proud past and an exciting future, and I am thankful for the opportunity to be part of it.”

Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker administered the official oath of office during the ceremony. President Cevallos said that one of the greatest challenges facing higher education is the need to reflect the changing face of the country by helping more students from underrepresented groups obtain a college degree.

“If we fail to educate a large percentage of our populations, regardless of race or ethnicity, we will fail as a society,” he said. “We have a responsibility to reach out and make higher education part of the future of all children.”

UMass Boston Chancellor J. Keith Motley served as the special guest speaker and told students in attendance that they had a strong advocate in President Cevallos.

“He is pushing far more for you than he dreamed of for himself,” Motley said. “You have someone who is deeply invested in you.”

Former UMass Amherst Chancellor David K. Scott, a longtime friend and mentor to President Cevallos, also spoke at the ceremony and lauded the president’s ability to work collaboratively in a large community.

“Javier is a leader who galvanizes others to come together toward a shared goal,” Scott said. “That has been his track record. I congratulate all those who worked hard to keep the future of this University bright by selecting Javier Cevallos as president.”

President Cevallos told the audience that he embraces the great challenges that lie ahead for Framingham State and for all of higher education. He said that he draws optimism from the work ethic, dedication and commitment demonstrated by students, faculty and staff during his first year at FSU.

“We have an exciting future in front of us,” President Cevallos said. “To get there, we need the concerted efforts of everyone on this campus.”
2015 Distinguished Faculty Recipients

EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING

Dr. Mary-Ann Stadtler-Chester

Dr. Mary-Ann Stadtler-Chester is an accomplished instructor with a wide range of teaching experience. Her career includes nearly 35 years of full-time university-level teaching. She received her bachelor’s degree from Manhattanville College, her master’s degree at the University of Chicago and her doctoral degree at the University of Paris.

Dr. Stadtler-Chester teaches French, Chinese and Education courses at the undergraduate and graduate levels at FSU. Her instructional responsibilities in the Education Department include the Professional Preparation and Field Study II course and the Student Teaching Seminar for World Languages majors with clear objectives and measurable outcomes.

From 2000 to 2016, Dr. Stadtler-Chester served as director of the Framingham State University Honors Program. During this period, the program saw remarkable growth, improvement, and enhanced stature and visibility. Her efforts led to the program’s admission into the Commonwealth Honors Program in 2012. This achievement required submission of a detailed self-study, a daylong site visit and approval by the Massachusetts Board of Higher Education. Dr. Stadtler-Chester also worked with the Honors Advisory Council on many other enhancements to the program, including providing scholarships to all incoming honors students to attract top students to the University.

EXCELLENCE IN SCHOLARSHIP

Dr. Emmanouil Apostolidis

Dr. Emmanouil Apostolidis joined Framingham State’s Department of Chemistry and Food Science in 2011. He earned his bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral degrees from the University of Massachusetts Amherst, and teaches courses in Food Science and Biochemistry. Since arriving at Framingham State, Dr. Apostolidis has established a vigorous research program involving both undergraduate and graduate students. His scholarly work focuses on the potential health benefits of naturally occurring compounds found in fruits, spices, herbs and teas. The research he has conducted in his laboratory has led to the identification of chemicals that inhibit the enzymes that break down starches, thereby preventing a spike in glucose levels after consuming a meal. This has potential application in the treatment of type 2 diabetes, which affects more than 380 million people worldwide, according to the International Diabetes Foundation.

EXCELLENCE IN PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Dr. Carolyn Maibor

Dr. Carolyn Maibor joined Framingham State’s English Department in 2004. She holds a bachelor’s degree from Simmons College, a master’s degree from the University of Montreal and a doctoral degree from Brandeis University. Her teaching and research interests include 19th-century American literature and philosophy, literary theory and gender studies, and rhetoric and composition.

From 2007 to 2014, Dr. Maibor served as director of the Framingham State University Honors Program. During this period, the program saw remarkable growth, improvement, and enhanced stature and visibility. Her efforts led to the program’s admission into the Commonwealth Honors Program in 2012. This achievement required submission of a detailed self-study, a daylong site visit and approval by the Massachusetts Board of Higher Education. Dr. Maibor also worked with the Honors Advisory Council on many other enhancements to the program, including providing scholarships to all incoming honors students to attract top students to the University.

EXCELLENCE IN ADVISING/MENTORING

Dr. Ira Silver

Dr. Ira Silver has been teaching in the Sociology Department at Framingham State University since 2003. He earned his bachelor’s degree from Amherst College and his master’s and doctoral degrees from Northwestern University. His areas of specialization include social inequality, charitable giving, community activism, social problem framing, technology and social change, and death and dying. He is the author of Giving Hope: How You Can Restore the American Dream.

Dr. Silver’s influence as a mentor at FSU is expressed through his teaching, scholarship and program development. In addition to his formal advising and mentoring projects, he has been a strong advocate and mentor to first-generation college students at FSU, a group that comprises one-third of the FSU student population. He was one of the first faculty members to lend support to GenerationOnE, a grassroots affinity group among first-generation faculty, staff and students.

Dr. Elaine Beilin Receives First-Year Advocate Award

THE AWARD IS NAMED IN HONOR OF DR. ROBERT A. MARTIN, FORMER VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS AND 2013-14 INTERIM PRESIDENT.

Longtime English Professor Dr. Elaine Beilin is the winner of the 2015 Robert A. Martin Outstanding First-Year Advocate Award, which recognizes individuals who have created positive change and/or developed programs designed to improve the transition to college for first-year students.

Dr. Beilin was chosen due to her work through the Center for Excellence in Learning, Teaching, Scholarship and Service. The award honors her success in developing programs that help faculty work with first-year students in their classrooms and the guidance she has provided all members of the English Department throughout her time at FSU, especially for courses that focus on first-year students.

“Dr. Beilin was nominated by multiple people who have recognized her efforts to create a positive environment for students at FSU. She embodies every characteristic that this award represents.”

—Ben Trapanick, First-Year Programs
The basketball team is coming off a strong season with a 24–7 record. Alycia Rackliffe did exactly that when she led the team with 18 points in the All-MASCAC selection. She has quickly emerged as a star on both teams, helping propel them to levels of success not seen in years.

“It’s been great to be a part of two really strong teams,” says Rackliffe, who just began her junior year at FSU. During Rackliffe’s first and second seasons, the Volleyball team finished as MASCAC Champions both years and made its first two trips to the NCAA tournament—a first in FSU history. This past year, she led the team with 47 blocks and 97 assists, while making her second straight, first-team All-MASCAC selection.

The basketball team is coming off a strong campaign that saw Rackliffe finish second in scoring and first in rebounds and blocked shots. “You don’t see many two-sport athletes anywhere because sports have become so individualized,” says FSU Athletic Director Tom Kelley ’76. “The pressure at an early age to concentrate on one sport is what makes Alcyia special. To top it all off, she not only excels in two sports, but also excels in the classroom.”

Last year, Rackliffe was a member of the MASCAC All-Academic Team during both of her athletic seasons. She says the time commitment of playing two sports does not affect her academically. “I actually feel like the sports seasons keep me on track, because I know I only have a certain amount of time to get my work done,” Rackliffe says. “During the spring season, our focus is on playing baseball, it’s almost more of a challenge finding the motivation to get my work done because I have so much time.”

Rackliffe says she was attracted to Framingham State because of the athletic opportunities and the strong Food and Nutrition program. “I like the idea of working for a big food company developing new products,” Rackliffe says. “There is also a nutrition component to that, which I enjoy.”

Now that she is in her junior season, Rackliffe says she is looking forward to taking on more of a leadership role with her teams. The goal for both is to win the conference and get to the NCAA tournament, she says. “We’ve lost some great players, but there are still a lot of guys returning and a lot of young guys. We’re excited about what we have to offer,” Rackliffe says.

The team's seniors go all out at the fall practice session as they amassed a 90–78 record over four years.
Alumni Achievement Award Winners

FRAMINGHAM STATE UNIVERSITY WAS PROUD TO HONOR ITS 2015 ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT AWARD WINNERS DURING REUNION WEEKEND.

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD
RICHARD O. WIGHTMAN '74
Richard is a decorated retired two-star general who currently serves as a Presidentially appointed senior executive in the Department of Defense as the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs.

ALUMNI EDUCATOR AWARD
MARY LISCOMBE ’70
Mary was the longtime Director of Framingham State’s Christa Corrigan McAuliffe Center.

LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE AWARD
KATHLEEN CRANE MILLETT ’78
Kathleen is the Executive Director of the Massachusetts Office for Nutrition, Health and Safety Programs and a longtime supporter of the John C. Stalker Institute of Food and Nutrition at FSU.

YOUNG ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT AWARD
MEGHAN SURPRISE ’09, ’12
Meghan is a third-grade teacher at E. J. Harrington Elementary School in Lynn.

The Christa Corrigan McAuliffe Center has begun offering monthly programs in its state-of-the-art planetarium that are free and open to the public. The center typically offers two public programs on a Friday afternoon each month. This is your opportunity to explore the universe from the comforts of a chair!

Most events do fill up. To learn more or to register for an upcoming show, visit WWW.CHRISTA.ORG/PUBLIC-EVENTS/

Come Visit the FSU Planetarium

The new edition of Pioneers in Education, which chronicles the 175-year history of Framingham State University, is now on sale at the FSU Bookstore. Hardcover copies can be purchased for $28 in person or over the phone at 508-626-4595. A portion of each sale will support student scholarships.

Originally published in 1989 to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of Framingham State, Pioneers in Education is a detailed history of America’s oldest public normal school, complete with historical photos and a timeline. Former FSU presidents D. Justin McCarthy and Paul F. Weller and faculty members Constance Brine Jordan, Rita Loos, P. Bradley Nutting and Beverly J. Weiss contributed chapters to the first edition of the book.

As part of the University’s 175th anniversary celebrations in 2014, FSU History professors Jon Huibregtse and Sarah Mulhall Adelman agreed to take on the task of updating the book with a new chapter that covers the last 25 years. They received considerable assistance from research intern Jasmine Bonaca ’15.

ANOTHER ALL-FSU WEDDING!
Alicia Gahan ’10 and Chris Donovan ’10 tied the knot at Old Sturbridge Village in July surrounded by friends and family. Like many FSU alumni, the happy couple began dating and fell in love during their time at the University. After graduating, Chris was hired as an English teacher at Ayer Shirley Regional High School and Alicia got a job as a fourth grade teacher in Hopkinton. She is currently teaching in Leicester. They’ve remained loyal Rams in recent years. In fact, both returned to the University to earn their master’s degrees in education. “Framingham State holds a special place in our hearts since it is where we fell in love and met some of our best friends,” Alicia says.

“FRAMINGHAM STATE HOLDS A SPECIAL PLACE IN OUR HEARTS.”

NEW EDITION OF PIONEERS IN EDUCATION ON SALE NOW AT FSU BOOKSTORE

FRAMINGHAM STATE FALL 2015
Hundreds of alumni returned to campus in June to reconnect with friends, toast the Golden Anniversary Class of 1965 and celebrate Reunion. Highlights included a family-friendly concert on the green behind North Hall, planetarium shows in the Christa Corrigan McAuliffe Center and the Alumni General Assembly.
1940s
DELORES A. ESPOSITO ’64 published a children’s book titled, Betsy...

1960s
GAY WILLIS SARBIN ’65 was awarded the 2015 Touch the Future Award at the annual meeting of the Independent Association of Framingham State Alumni (IAFSA) during Alumni Weekend. The award honors teachers who teach teachers and demonstrate and instill an enthusiasm for teaching, as Christina McAskill did. Gay was nominated by her classmate Beth Croak, who noted that Gay not only taught for 47 years, but was also an award-winning supervisor and mentor, and an active leader in many Massachusetts educational associations. Among other accomplishments, Gay received a national “Thanks to Teachers” Excellence Award. In her honor, IAFSA Touch the Future Fund donated $250 to Framingham State to enable more grade school students to participate in missions at the McAskill Challenger Center.

1970s
BARBARA CHADWICK ’73 was named Honorary Mayor of Middleboro, MA for 2015. She raised over $2,500 for The Friends of Middleboro Cemeteries. CAMILLE (MEGNA) HENDRSEE ’77 published an article titled “Nutrition Notes: Making Great Nutrition Happen For You” in the Taunton Daily Gazette on March 18, 2015. Camille is also the owner of Megna Nutrition Associates Inc. of Natick, MA.

TEACHING THE ART OF INVENTING

PATRICIA NOLAN-BROWN ’81 has spent the past 42 years as a self-described “serial inventor.” Now she’s working to teach others how to take their innovative concepts from “idea to invention.”

“What used to take me weeks and months to do, I can now do right online,” says Nolan-Brown, who holds five patents and whose recently published book, Idea to Invention: What You Need to Know to Cash In on Your Inspiration reached number one on Amazon’s Top 10 list. All of her inventions over the years have come as a result of finding solutions to everyday problems. This includes her first and most famous invention, the original rear-facing car seat mirror.

“At the time, I had just had my first daughter. When I’d put her in the car seat in the back of the car, it drove me nuts that I could not see her in the rear mirror,” she says. “I couldn’t believe there was nothing in the stores to allow a parent to see their baby in the car seat.”

When someone suggested she invent one herself, her career as an inventor began. During the early 1980s, the Internet wasn’t widely available, so Nolan-Brown spent many hours in the Boston Public Library researching patents. She sold her first order of two dozen before she had even developed the product.

“I walked into a baby specialty store with the idea and a basic rendering for the package,” she says. “They immediately placed an order, and I had to run home and figure out how to make them.”

Nolan-Brown shipped the product out for her home for about five years before finally licensing the product in exchange for royalties to a company who took it worldwide. Today, she has begun sharing the knowledge that she’s gained as an inventor over the last two decades with others who are interested in gaining patents for their own inventions.

“The book breaks down the traits people need to possess to be successful inventors and also gets into some of the technical aspects of patent law,” she says. “I’ve also done a lot of speaking and personal coaching for inventors. I’m providing a service that I would have loved to have had access to when I first started.”

Nolan-Brown, who majored in Art at FSU, is one of several members of her family to attend the University. She says that her experience starting a graphic design firm shortly after graduating helped her to hone her people and marketing skills. “The Art program was very strong and everything was so personal,” she says. “I really enjoyed my time there.”

To learn more about Nolan-Brown’s inventions and book, visit WWW.PATRICIANOLANBROWN.COM

1980s
ANDREW E. ZELMAN ’82 of Southborough, MA has joined MutualOne Bank as Senior Vice President, Niche Lending Markets.

ROBIN STRATTON ’82, author of On Air, Of Zen and Men, In His Genes, and Blue or Blue Skies, has opened up a writing and publishing center in Newton, MA.

FRANKLIN NEWTON ’87 was appointed acting Vice President and Chief of Staff at the University of Delaware, effective July 1, 2015.

SUZANNE (MOORE) CUNNINGHAM ’88 joined Cenotech Solutions LLC as their Senior Derivatives Engineer.

PATTY (DONAHUE-SULLIVAN) SCHLOSSBERG ’88 is married to Steve Schlossberg and works as a Front Desk Guest Services Representative and Night Auditor at Red Roof Inn in Framingham. Their daughter Caroline will be attending Framingham State this fall as an Early Childhood Education major.

GARY MAZZOLA ’85, ’89 was recently appointed Superintendent of Westminster-Ashburnham Regional School District.

KIRSTEN STOLLE ’89 was awarded a Patolcek-Kranser Foundation Grant to support her fall solo show at the Turchin Center for Visual Arts.

1990s
LAURIE BOYER ’90 is an Associate Professor in Biology at MIT’s Levin and Hemenway Career Development Center.

CYNTHIA BING ’91 is currently named Chief Human Resources Officer for Harvard Pilgrim Health Care.

MICHAEL IVANOFSKI ’91 is stepping down as the head coach of the Hanover High School football team in Hanover, NH after 22 years and 5 state football titles.

WILLIAM S. SMITH ’92 is a trial attorney and the proprietor of the Law Office of William S. Smith in Holden, MA. He recently successfully argued the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court on behalf of a client who had been wrongfully convicted of 1st degree murder.

JACQUE KITTLER ’95 was named Assistant Director of HR Services and Benefits for the UMass Office of the President.

2000s
STEVE CUMMINGS ’01 is currently being profiled as an extraordinary women in Zoo New England’s 21st anniversary campaign, “Today’s Elephants, Tomorrow’s Conservation.”

MARY (SORENSEN) MONTANER ’01 and her husband Gregory Montana are pleased to announce the birth of their second daughter Alyssa Rose Montana, who was born on Feb. 22, 2015. Alyssa weighed 7 pounds, 13 ounces and was 21 inches long. She was welcomed home by her big sister Tina.

SEAN P. CRUTCHLEY ’03 joined TD Bank as Senior Manager of the Fitchburg Main store.

JENNIFER (CARVALHO) THOMPSON ’03, ’03 was recently appointed the new town adminstrator in Plainville, MA.

MARY K. CASEY ’06 was named Manager of the Parents Association at MIT in Boston.

WILL REDDY ’06 was named Program Coordinator in the Student Involvement and Leadership Development office at Framingham State University.

ADRIENNE DANCEY ’07 and Matthew St. Mandry are engaged to be married October 2015.

JESSICA HONEWELL ’08 is a certified Veterinary Technician for Zoo New England and was recently profiled as an extraordinary women in Zoo New England’s 35th Anniversary of Women’s History Month.

"DURING MY 33 YEARS IN THE STATE POLICE, I HAVE BEEN FORTUNATE TO RECEIVE A GREAT DEAL OF KNOWLEDGE AND GUIDANCE FROM THE MANY PROFESSIONALS WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT."
I was going to be a CPA, “ says Krantz, who is currently a Lieutenant in the U.S. Navy, “but I realized quickly it wasn’t for me and started looking for a job that would challenge me and help me grow.”

Krantz has visited an additional 30 countries while traveling on leave. His 11 years of service have taken him to 27 different countries, including two tours in Afghanistan, General’s Aide duties and two ship-based tours in Japan. “The military appealed to me because I wanted to deploy overseas and serve my country,” he says.

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Krantz says. “It opens your eyes and gives you greater appreciation for the things that you take for granted.”

He still calls Massachusetts home, however, and lives in Norfolk. Sullivan says she has fond memories of her time at Framingham State and credits it for making her a better public speaker. “I look back at that course and can see that it really had a pivotal impact on my career,” she says. “My education at Framingham State was a tremendous value.”

Sullivan, who earned a degree in Food and Nutrition at Framingham State, says the biggest leap in her career came from 1991 to 1993, when she was the project manager overseeing the implementation of CBORD products for one of the largest media and entertainment corporations in the world.

“I’ve just said ‘yes’ to any opportunity that has come my way, no matter how overwhelming it may have seemed at first,” says Sullivan. “I’ve been lucky to have a fabulous mentor and managers along the way.”

Today, Sullivan is a true “road warrior” overseeing expansion efforts in the Middle East and an office in Sydney, Australia. She still calls Massachusetts home, however, and lives in Norfolk.

During a 30-year career with the CBORD Group, she has risen from a product manager to become the Vice President for Professional Services, a position that has seen her managing teams and services in places like the United Arab Emirates, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Australia. A subsidiary of Roper Technologies, the company is the world’s leading provider of campus and foodservice management software, and integrated security solution products. The CBORD Group has more than 6,000 clients worldwide.

“THE MILITARY APPEALED TO ME BECAUSE I WANTED TO DEPLOY OVERSEAS AND SERVE MY COUNTRY.”

“IN MEMORIAM”

Elenor (Horgan) Dooley ‘77
April 18, 2015

Elon (O’Neal) Fries ‘59
January 30, 2015

Francois (Tymbal) Allen ‘55
May 13, 2015

Georgie Schleppegrell ‘40
June 1, 2015

Elizabeth (Tiktak) Davis ‘43
January 3, 2015

Anne (Tower) Maclachlan ‘41
April 20, 2015

Barbara (White) Grady ‘61
July 9, 2010

Theresa (Spedalio) Rathsall ‘61
December 18, 2014

Joanna (Rachm) Reddy ‘81
April 20, 2015

Louis Cardini ‘65
August 9, 2010

Rosemary (Hern) Mahoney ‘63
May 11, 2015

Constance (Klar) Fowle ‘64
May 10, 2015

Michel (Camargo) Scarnavacca ‘64
April 21, 2015

Audrey (Kad) Jack ‘71
December 14, 2015

Shelley Smith ‘71
February 28, 2015

Bridgette ‘72
April 10, 2015

Charlotte (Urkansky) Ehrenberg ‘75
December 24, 2014

Munoz Kemp ‘77
June 17, 2013

Jena M. (Makler) Shores ‘77
June 2, 2015

Susan (Galliette) Sonberg ‘77
January 20, 2014

Paul Carrara ‘78
January 30, 2015

William Reid ‘83
March 8, 2015

Shola Goldman ‘84
October 4, 2011

Richard Anderson Hogs ‘84
February 22, 2015

Donald Buchsche ‘86
January 2, 2015

Clare (Stevens) Jenkins ‘92
April 3, 2015

Dennis Bruce ‘90
June 8, 2015

Elizabeth (Cook) Prescott ‘98
January 16, 2015

Eileen (Cassin) Bytt ‘34
January 19, 2015
FSU Degree Helps Jillian Nygard Advance Her Career at TJX

Jillian Nygard jumped at the opportunity to work at a large company in 2010 when she was offered a job as a human resources representative at TJX Companies in Framingham.

Recognizing the potential to advance in her career within one of the largest apparel companies in the world, she signed up for Framingham State’s master’s degree program in Human Resources.

“The degree helped me learn about the different areas of human resources and exposed me to people in these areas,” says Nygard. “The program is designed for people who are already working, so the professors understood the balance we had to maintain between work and classes.”

Nygard was promoted to a senior HR representative in 2011 and then to a global HR analyst after earning her master’s degree in 2014. “This fall, she’s returning to FSU to earn a master’s degree in business administration (MBA).”

“I want to learn more about the business side of things and continue to work my way up in the company,” Nygard says. “TJX offers tuition reimbursement to employees, so it’s just a matter of putting in the time and effort.”

“THE DEGREE HELPED ME LEARN ABOUT THE DIFFERENT AREAS OF HUMAN RESOURCES AND EXPOSED ME TO PEOPLE IN THOSE AREAS.”

Ray Boulanger Understands the Financial Challenges FSU Students Face

Former Trustee Raymond Boulanger did not attend Framingham State University, but he can relate to the experience of the typical FSU student, which is why he’s happy to do what he can to support them financially.

Boulanger grew up as a hardworking student in a lower-middle-class family in Easthampton, MA. At the time, the town was home to a poorly ranked local high school. Unlike many of his friends, Boulanger attended nearby Williston Academy with the help of a small scholarship and by working long hours during the summer. He also received financial assistance from his parents.

“My family had very limited resources, and my father and mother really sacrificed to send me to a private school,” Boulanger says. “Looking back, that was key for me to avoid the fate of a lot of my friends who didn’t receive the same educational opportunity.”

Like roughly a third of the Framingham State student population, Boulanger became the first generation in his family to attend college when he enrolled at Trinity College in Connecticut.

“I worked multiple jobs and relied on scholarships and loans to pay my way through college,” says Boulanger. “Many of Framingham State’s current students face similar challenges.”

He went on to earn his law degree from Yale Law School, before spending three years in the U.S. Army, where he became a Captain. After the Army, Boulanger enjoyed a long and successful career as a business attorney and partner at Goodwin Procter LLP in Boston, MA. His desire to support lower-income and first-generation students helped lead to his appointment to the FSU Board of Trustees, where he served for nearly 10 years, including his final year as Chairman of the Board. Today, Boulanger continues to serve in a volunteer capacity on the University’s Foundation Board.

His charitable donations to the University include creating the Matthew Denice Memorial Scholarship in honor of the member of the Class of 2014 who died in a motorcycle accident in 2011. The scholarship is available to FSU students who meet academic requirements.

Boulanger has also committed a portion of his estate to the University in his will and continues to make annual gifts to FSU’s Foundation.

“Scholarships and financial support were critical to the educational opportunities I received growing up, so it’s important for me to give back,” Boulanger says.
Swiacki Children’s Literature Festival

Thursday, November 5, 2015 | 3 p.m.

This year’s Swiacki Children’s Literature Festival will feature Jane Yolen, the acclaimed author of children’s books, fantasy and science fiction, including Owl Moon, The Devil’s Arithmetic, and How Do Dinosaurs Say Goodnight? The event includes book signings, lectures and workshops on the latest developments in the craft.

Boston Holiday Reception

Thursday, December 3, 2015 | 6 p.m.

Join the Office of Alumni Relations and your fellow alumni for a special holiday reception at the Westin Copley Place, Boston. Details are available online.

For more information or to register for alumni events, contact the Office of Alumni Relations.

Parents: If this issue of Framingham State Magazine is addressed to your son or daughter who now lives at a separate permanent address, please let us know.